to detect it within the perfected Purkinjean corpuscle, not only corresponding to the nucleus of the remaining unossified cartilage-cells in granular structure, but also in its measurements. After the Purkinjean corpuscle has been formed a short time, the nucleus dissolves away or disappears.

The newly-formed Purkinjean corpuscle is about the same size as the remaining unossified cartilage-cells, as indicated in the list of measurements appended to these notes.

Size of cell of temporary cartilage from the unossified os frontis of a human embryo, $\frac{1}{1886}$ of an inch; nucleus of ditto, $\frac{1}{3123}$ of an inch; nucleolus, $\frac{1}{8333}$ of an inch; Purkinjean corpuscle, $\frac{1}{1863}$ of an inch; nucleus within the same, $\frac{1}{3030}$ of an inch.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 116.

MODE OF PROGRESSION WITH ANIMALS.

It has been noticed by nearly all naturalists, as one of the peculiarities of the Giraffe, that it moves the two legs on the same side of it together; I have however noticed that most other animals *walk* in that manner, although few run so; among others I will mention the following as verifying my observations:—the Camel, the Lion, the Tiger, and Leopard, and all animals of the Felidæ, the Wolf, and Hyæna, and all the canine race.

Sometimes I have observed the same peculiarity in the Horse and Ass, though rarely; the Camel *runs* so; the other animals which I have mentioned, I have never observed to *walk* in the usual manner.

W. A. Pike.

Descriptions of new species of the genera Nyctale, *Brehm., and* Sycobius, *Vieill.* By John Cassin.

Genus Nyctale, *Brehm. Handb. Nat. Vög. Deuts.* p. 111.

Nyctale Harrisii, nobis.

Front, face, nuchal collar, and under surface of the body yellowish white, or buff colour.

Spot between the eye and the bill, and a broad occipital band, black, the latter covering the greater part of the hind head.

Feathers covering the ear black.

Throat with a few black feathers, and many of the feathers of the ruff on the front neck conspicuously tipped with black.

Upper surface of the back and wings deep reddish brown; wing-coverts with conspicuous round spots of white; all the quill-feathers also irregularly marked and spotted with white on the edges of both webs; scapulars largely edged with white and buff.

Upper tail-coverts brown, spotted with white. Tail black, with about three pairs of rounded white spots on every feather. Tarsi thickly feathered to the toes, and with the whole under surface of the body buff colour.

Total length of skin, from tip of bill to end of tail, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; wing, $5\frac{3}{4}$; tail, $2\frac{2}{3}$.

Hab. South America?

The specimen now described was obtained from Mr. J. G. Bell,

Taxidermist, of New York, who has no accurate recollection of its locality, but is of the opinion that it came from South America.

I have named this singular and beautiful little species in honour of Mr. Edward Harris, of Moorestown, N. J., Chairman of the Ornithological Committee of this Academy, and a distinguished naturalist.

Genus Sycobius, *Vieillot.*

Sycobius scutatus, nobis.

♂ Upper part of the head and neck, broad pectoral band and under tail-coverts bright crimson; the crimson of the breast uniting on the sides of the neck with that of the head.

Throat and ears black, which colour forms a large gular patch extending to, but scarcely including the eyes.

All other parts of the body black.

♀ Broad pectoral band and under tail-coverts crimson; all other parts, including the head, black.

Total length of skin, from tip of bill to end of tail, about $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; wing, $3\frac{5}{8}$; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$.

Hab. Western Africa.

Two pairs of this species now described were brought to this country by Robert MacDowell, M.D., Surgeon attached to the colonial government of Sierra Leone, who collected them in Western Africa.

It bears a greater resemblance to the *Sycobius rubricollis* (Swainson), Vieill. Ois. Chant. pl. 43, than to any other species which I have found described; but from this and all others it may readily be distinguished by its under tail-coverts being crimson, and also by its broad pectoral band of the same colour.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 157.

Description of a new species of Salamander from Upper California.
By Edward Hallowell, M.D.

Salamandra lugubris.

Sp. Char.—Head large; eyes very prominent; tail rather longer than the body, which is cylindrical. Head, tail, extremities, and the rest of the animal dark olive above, lighter beneath; an indistinct irregular row of yellowish spots on each side. Several small spots of the same colour upon the neck and upper part of the tail and posterior extremities.

Description.—Head large, swollen at the temples, depressed in front; snout obtuse and somewhat rounded; eyes large, latero-superior; nostrils latero-anterior, small and distant; the palate is provided with two transverse rows of teeth (situated immediately behind the posterior nares), which are incurvated internally and meet posteriorly. There is also a longitudinal row of teeth, separated from those described by an interval of half a line; tongue long and spatulate, very free at its edges, attached by a pedicle at its anterior extremity; neck somewhat contracted, without a gular fold; body and extremities slender, the posterior larger than the anterior; tail compressed, cylindrical, tapering to a point.

Colour. (From a specimen in spirits in the museum of the